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Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-07 NRC-05 OES-03 FEAE-00 DODE-00

PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OIC-02 AF-06 ARA-06 NEA-10

PM-04 SS-15 SAJ-01 /124 W
---------- 109805
R 051423Z JAN 76
FM USMISSION IAEA VIENNA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6871
INFO USERDA GERMANTOWN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I JFD E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 IAEA VIENNA 0049

PASS IO/SCT AND NRC

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, TECH, IAEA, GW
SUBJECT: CHAIRMANSHIP, STANDING ADVISORY GROUP ON SAFEGUARDS IMPLEMENTATION (SAGSI)

REF: IAEA VIENNA 10493

SUMMARY: ILL-ADVISED LAST-MINUTE EFFORT BY FRG TO HAVE GUPTA ELECTED CHAIRMAN OF SAGSI AT INITIAL MEETING DEC 8 PREDICTABLY FAILED. GUPTA IS CONCERNED THAT THIS FAILURE, FOLLOWING HIS PREVIOUS UNSUCCESSFUL CANDIDACY FOR IAEA DIRECTOR SAFEGUARDS DEVELOPMENT DIVISION WILL BE USED TO JUSTIFY REDUCTION BY FED MIN RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY OF HIS AND KARLSRUHE INSTITUTE'S SAFEGUARDS WORK. ACTION REQUESTED: AUTHORIZATION FOR EMBASSY BONN TO EXPLAIN SITUATION TO APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF MINISTRY. END SUMMARY.

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1. DURING ATTENDANCE BY US MEMBER SAGSI BENNETT

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AT OCTOBER IAEA SAFEGUARDS SYMPOSIUM IN VIENNA, HE
DISCUSSED WITH MISSION QUESTION OF POSSIBLE CHAIRMAN
TO BE CHOSEN BY TEN SAGSI MEMBERS AT INITIAL MEETING
DEC 8. AT THAT TIME, BENNETT MADE EFFORT SIZE UP THOSE
SAGSI MEMBERS ATTENDING SYMPOSIUM, INCLUDING GUILLET
(FRANCE), COSTILLO-CRUZ (MEXICO) AND ROENSCH (GDR).
OF THIS GROUP, ONLY ROENSCH IMPRESSED BENNETT AS HAVING
ADEQUATE UNDERSTANDING OF ISSUES LIKELY TO ARISE AND
NECESSARY BACKGROUND. BENNETT ALREADY KNEW GUPTA (FRG)
AND IMAI (JAPAN), NEITHER OR WHOM ATTENDED SYNPOSIUM.
NEITHER HE NOR MISSION PERSONNEL KNEW HAMEL (CANADA),
ALSO ABSENT, BUT BENNETT CONSIDERED THAT CANADIAN NATIONAL
WOULD BE DEFINITE POSSIBILITY, IF HE WERE ALSO CAPABLE
OF CHAIRING GROUP, BASED UPON TRADITIONAL STRONG CANADIAN
SUPPORT FOR EFFECTIVE SAFEGUARDS.

2. AT END OF SYMPOSIUM, BENNETT ARRANGED RETURN TO VIENNA
FEW DAYS PRIOR TO DEC 8 SAGSI MEETING FOR FURTHER
DISCUSSION WITH MISSION OF CHAIRMAN QUESTION AND OTHER
MATTERS RE MEETING. MEANWHILE, HE WAS TO SEEK INFO RE HAMEL.

3. IN MID-NOVEMBER, MISSION LEARNED THAT CANADA HAD
ARRANGED WITH IAEA DIR GEN TO REPLACE HAMEL WITH JENNEKENS,
WHO HAD BEEN PRINCIPAL CANADIAN EXPERT ON 1970-71 IAEA
SAFEGUARDS COMMITTEE AND WHO HAD JUST BEEN GIVEN RESPONSIBILITY
AGAIN FOR SAFEGUARDS IN AECB, AFTER SEVERAL YEARS
ON OTHER ASSIGNMENTS. MISSION, AT THAT TIME, EXPRESSED
OPINION TO CANADIAN MISSION THAT PARTICIPATION BY
JENNEKENS WOULD BE WELCOMED BY BENNETT AND THAT
JENNEKENS MIGHT BE APPROPRIATE CHOICE FOR CHAIRMAN.
MAJOR FACTOR IN THAT ASSESSMENT WAS HISTORIC VIRTUAL COINCIDENCE
OF USG AND CANADIAN VIEWS RE PRIMARY IMPORTANCE OF MAKING
IAEA SAFEGUARDS EFFECTIVE AS OPPOSED TO RECORD OF
EFFORTS BY FRG AND JAPAN TO MINIMIZE IAEA INSPECTION EFFORT.

4. FEW DAYS PRIOR TO BENNETT'S ARRIVAL IN VIENNA DURING
FIRST WEEK DECEMBER, MISSION WAS SURPRISED BY CALL FROM
FRG MISSION, INFORMING US (WITH NO PRIOR INDICATION) THAT
FRG HOPED THAT GUPTA WOULD BE ELECTED CHAIRMAN OF SAGSI
AND THAT HE HAD BACKING OF UK MEMBER (FRED BROWN) AND
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OF INDIAN AND JAPANESE MEMBERS. (IN FACT, WE UNDERSTOOD
AT THAT TIME THAT BROWN'S CHOICE WAS JENNEKENS.) FRG
MISOFF EXPRESSED HOPE USG WOULD ALSO SUPPORT GUPTA. WE
REPLIED THAT MEMBERS SAGSI SERVE AS INDIVIDUALS, NOT
RPT NOT AS GOVERNMENT REPS, BUT THAT WE WOULD BE MEETING
WITH BENNETT FOLLOWING DAY AND WOULD INFORM HIM RE GUPTA
CANDIDACY.

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5. NEXT MORNING, WHILE BENNETT WAS AT MISSION, USSR MISSION CALLED TO INFORM US THAT USSR BELIEVED ROENSCH (GDR) WOULD BE EXCELLENT CHOICE FOR SAGSI CHAIRMAN. WE GAVE SAME RESPONSE RE DECISION BY BENNETT AS HAD BEEN GIVEN DAY BEFORE TO FRG MISSION, AND NOTED THAT THERE WERE THREE CANDIDATES AMONG TEN MEMBERS. USSR MISOFF WAS AWARE OF GUPTA CANDIDACY, BUT MADE NO COMMENT.

6. IN DISCUSSION WITH MISSION, BENNETT DECIDED THAT HE DID NOT RPT NOT WISH TO BE PLACED IN UNCOMFORTABLE POSITION OF CHOOSING BETWEEN FRG AND GDR CANDIDATES AND SINCE JENNEKEN WAS PERFECTLY SUITABLE, HE WAS BENNETT'S CHOICE. MISSION ASSESSED, FOR BENNETT, CHANCES THAT JENNEKENS COULD BE ELECTED BY CHECKING WITH UK MISSION (WHO INDICATED SUPPORT) AND WITH USSR MISSION, WHO WERE NOT RPT NOT OPPOSED, BUT WANTED ROENSCH AS VICE-CHAIRMAN OR, ALTERNATIVELY, ARRANGEMENT FOR ROTATION WITH COMMITMENT THAT ROENSCH WOULD BE NEXT IN LINE, POINTING OUT DESIRABILITY OF EAST-WEST BALANCE. WE POINTED OUT THAT NO PROVISION HAD BEEN MADE FOR VICE-CHAIRMAN OR FOR LENGTH OF TIME CHAIRMAN WOULD SERVE, IN SAGSI'S TERMS OF REFERENCE. PRESUMABLY, GROUP WOULD MAKE SUCH DECISIONS IN COURSE OF ELECTION.

7. BENNETT'S VIEW OF SITUATION WAS THAT USSR AND EE'S

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 L-03

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PM-04 SS-15 SAJ-01 /124 W
---------- 109641
R 051423Z JAN 76
FM USMISSION IAEA VIENNA
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INFO USERDA GERMANTOWN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 IAEA VIENNA 0049

PASS IO/SCT AND NRC

ATTITUDES TOWARD EFFECTIVE IAEA SAFEGUARDS WERE
SAME AS THAT OF USG AND THAT HE HAD COUNTED ON USSR
AND GDR MEMBERS OF SAGSI SUPPORT FOR HIS POSITIONS
IN COURSE OF SAGSI'S WORK. HE WAS ACCORDINGLY
SYMPATHETIC TO ROENSCH CANDIDACY FOR VICE-CHAIRMAN,
IF GROUP DECIDED TO HAVE ONE. MISOFFS POINTED OUT THAT
USSR WOULD HAVE READY ARGUMENT AGAINST
ANY FRG CHAIRMAN, SINCE FRG NATIONAL HAD TAKEN UP
POSITION IN SEPTEMBER AS DIRECTOR OF SAFEGUARDS
DEVELOPMENT DIVISION (WHICH APPOINTMENT USSR HAD
VIEWED WITH MISGIVINGS) AND THAT GIVING FRG ANOTHER
SIGNIFICANT POSITION OF INFLUENCE IN IAEA SAFEGUARDS
WOULD BE MORE THAN MAJORITY OF SAGSI MEMBERS COULD BE
EXPECTED TO ACCEPT.

8. MISSION AND BENNETT DURING COURSE DEC 4 AND 5, LET IT
BE KNOWN TO CANADIAN, UK, MEXICAN, JAPANESE AND
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INDIAN MISSIONS THAT BENNETT WOULD FAVOR JENNEKENS
AS CHAIRMAN, RATHER THAN CHOOSE BETWEEN FRG AND GDR CANDIDATES.
FRENCH MISOFF CONCERNED COULD NOT BE REACHED. I ALSO
INFORMED IAEA DIR GEN EKLUND OF SITUATION, INVOLVING
THREE CANDIDATES, AND BEFORE I COULD OUTLINE BENNETT'S
POSITION, HE STATED THAT JENNEKENS WAS OBVIOUS CHOICE.
WHEN I NOTED THAT FRENCH POSITION UNKNOWN, HE UNDERTOOK
TO SPEAK TO GOLDSCHMIDT ATTENDING IAEA SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY
COMMITTEE MEETING.

9. AT OPENING OF SAGSI MEETING, EKLUND PRESUMABLY ON
BASIS HIS OWN SOUNDINGS OF SUPPORT FOR JENNEKENS, SAID
HE UNDERSTOOD JENNEKENS WOULD BE GOOD CHOICE FOR
CHAIRMAN OF FIRST MEETING. IT WAS LATER DECIDED BY
SAGSI THAT JENNEKENS WOULD ALSO CHAIR NEXT MEETING, AND
THAT ROTATIONAL PROCEDURE WOULD THEN BE CONSIDERED.

10. SAGSI MEMBERS GUPTA (FRG) AND IMAI (JAPAN) CALLED
ON MISSION, AT GUPTA'S "URGENT REQUEST" MORNING FOLLOWING
SAGSI MEETING. BENNETT WAS ALSO PRESENT. GUPTA SAID
HE UNDERSTOOD US HAD "OPPOSED" HIS CANDIDACY FOR SAGSI

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CHAIRMANSHIP, AND SAID IT WAS IMPORTANT FOR HIM TO KNOW
REASON, WHETHER IT WAS "HIS PERSON OR HIS COUNTRY."
HE EXPLAINED THAT IF HE IS VIWED IN BONN, ON BASIS
OF HIS UNSUCCESSFUL CANDIDACIES FOR SAFEGUARDS DEVELOPMENT
DIVISION DIRECTOR AND FOR SAGSI CHAIRMAN, AS A LIABILITY
IN DEALING WITH IAEA AFFAIRS, HE AND REST OF KARLSRUHE
SAFEGUARDS EFFORT WILL NOT RECEIVE SUPPORT OR FUNDING
FOR INTERNATIONAL ASPECTS OF THEIR WORK. MISOFFS AND BENNETT
OUTLINED DEVELOPMENT OF COMPETING CANDIDACIES LEADING TO
BENNETT'S POSITION. KEY FACTOR IN THAT POSITION WAS TO
AVOID FRG-GDR CONTEST FOR CHAIRMANSHIP. MISOFFS ADDED
THAT LEVEL AND INTENSITY OF US-FRG CONSULTATIONS ON SAFE-
GUARDS POLICY MATTERS HAD GREATLY INCREASED IN LAST YEAR,
AND THAT DEGREE OF COMMON INTERESTS, VIENWS, AND
POSITIONS IN SAFEGUARDS AREA WAS PROBABLY GREATER
THAN IN PAST. THUS, WE WANTED TO MAKE CLEAR THAT A)
SAGSI CHAIRMANSHIP WAS NOT CASE OF US "OPPOSITION"
TO GUPTA OR TO FRG, AND THAT B) US DESIRED, AND
PLANNED TO WORK TOWARD, US-FRG COOPERATION AND
COORDINATION SAGSI AND SAFEGUARDS MATTERS IN
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GENERAL.

11. AS MENTIONED ABOVE, THERE HAVE BEEN DIFFERENCES
BETWEEN US AND FRG POSITIONS RE IAEA SAFEGUARDS. GUPTA
HAS BEEN A VIGOROUS SPOKESMAN FOR VARIOUS CONCEPTS USUALLY
AIMED AT REDUCTION OF IAEA SAFEGUARDS INSPECTION EFFORT
AND THAT REMAINS ONE OF MAIN THRUSTS OF FRG EFFORT
(SEE REFTEL). ON OTHER HAND, THERE ARE REASONS FOR US
AND FRG POSITIONS TO MOVE CLOSER TOGETHER. GUPTA IS
INTELLIGENT AND EXPERIENCED IN SAFEGUARDS, AND IT IS
NOT CLEAR ANOTHER FRG SPOKESMAN WOULD BE AN IMPROVEMENT.
FURTHER, GUPTA IS SOMEWHAT DEPENDENT ON USG ATTITUDE
TO HIM AT THIS POINT, WHICH INCREASES HIS PERSONAL
STAKE IN REACHING ACCOMMODATION WITH USG POSITIONS.
FINALLY, MISSION BELIEVES WE SHOULD, TO EXTENT POSSIBLE,
ENCOURAGE CONTINUATION OF KARLSRUHE SAFEGUARDS
TECHNICAL DEVELOPMENT WORK.

12. MISSION HAS MENTIONED GUPTA'S CONCERN RE FRG MIS-
UNDERSTANDING TO DG EKLUND, WHO STATED HE WOULD SEND
EXPLANATORY LETTER TO HAUNSCHILD OF RES AND TECH MIN,
MAKING CLEAR THAT CHOICE OF SAGSI CHAIRMAN SHOULD
NOT BE INTERPRETED AS REFLECTION ON GUPTA'S
CAPABILITIES.

13. MISSION SUGGESTS THAT DEPARTMENT AUTHORIZE EMBASSY
BONN AT APPROPRIATE EARLY OPPORTUNITY, TO MENTION TO
FON MIN AND RES AND TECH MIN OFFICIALS USG DESIRE

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FOR CONSULTATIONS ON SAFEGUARDS IMPLEMENTATION MATTERS,
AND TO EXPLAIN THAT GUPTA'S CANDIDACY WAS LOST CAUSE
FROM START, GIVEN SITUATION OF A) FRG NATIONAL IN ONE
OF TWO DIRECTOR POSITIONS IN SAFEGUARDS, B) GDR
CANDIDATE AND C) AVAILABILITY WELL-KNOWN AND ATTRACTIVE
THIRD CHOICE. THIS IN NO WAY WAS REFLECTION ON
GUPTA'S PERSONAL ABILITY. BECAUSE OF USSR STRONG SUPPORT
FOR ROENSCH WE EXPECT HIM TO BE CANDIDATE FOR NEXT
CHAIRMAN. FRG SHOULD NOT RPT NOT DRAW ANY CONCLUSIONS
CONCERNING GUPTA'S REPUTATION OR EFFECTIVENESS IN EVENT
ROENSCH IS SUCCESSFUL.LABOWITZ

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Message Attributes

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Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: SmithRJ
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976IAEAV00049
Document Source: CORE
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